

July 20, 2009
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Registration Unit
Counterespionage Section
National Security Division
US Department of Justice
1400 New York Avenue, N.W.
1st Floor - Public Office
Suite 100
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed please find a Press Release dated Wednesday, July 15, 2009 from the Kurdistan Regional Government US liaison office, Registrant #5783.

Sincerely,


J. Michael Slocum

2009 JUL 20 PM 5:14
CRM/OES/REGISTRATION UNIT

Email - Atlantic Council Launches "Confidence Building between Turks and Iraqi Kurds"

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Slocum FARA account <farakrg@gmail.com>

Atlantic Council Launches "Confidence Building between Turks and Iraqi Kurds"

message

URG-US <us@krg.org>
to: us@krg.org

Fri, Jul 17, 2009 at 1:47 PM



ATLANTIC COUNCIL

Press Release

For more information, contact David Phillips at 917-733-7320

2009 JUL 20 PM 5:14
CRM/CES/REGISTRATION UNIT

Atlantic Council Report Heralds Improved Relations between Turkey and Iraqi Kurdistan

For immediate release – Washington DC, July 15, 2009 — A new Atlantic Council report, "Confidence Building between Turks and Iraqi Kurds" by senior fellow David L. Phillips, argues that Turks and Iraqi Kurds should build on existing economic and energy cooperation to strengthen their ties. Despite improvements, progress is tenuous. Kurdish nationalism is intensifying during the run-up to Kurdistan's presidential and parliamentary elections on July 25. Phillips also notes that Kirkuk's unresolved status and stalled negotiations on the hydrocarbons and revenue sharing laws have further exacerbated tensions between Arabs and Kurds. He warns that conflict over these issues within Iraq could spill over Iraq's borders involving Turkey and setting back progress in relations between Turkey and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). "If the United States is to responsibly redeploy from Iraq, it must bring an end-state that is stable, at peace with itself and its neighbors," says Phillips.

Among the report's recommendations are the following measures that Turks, Iraqi Kurds, and the Iraqi government can take with assistance from the international community:

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- The United States should encourage the KRG and the Iraqi government to build on the recent arrangements enabling the export of oil from Iraqi Kurdistan so they can finalize national Hydrocarbons and Revenue Sharing Laws.
- The United Nations should intensify its mediation to resolve the status of Kirkuk within the parameters of Article 140 in Iraq's constitution to accommodate competing claims and prevent an outbreak of violence.
- The KRG should focus on good governance by emphasizing the protection and promotion of minority rights, financing minority schools, ensuring use of minority languages in public proceedings, and guaranteeing minority participation in local security staffing.
- The KRG should crack down on PKK logistics through more effective efforts to arrest senior commanders, interdict financing, and disrupt communications by tightening checkpoints around Qandil, including mountain passes near Iraq's border with Turkey.
- The government of Turkey can help drain the swamp of support among Turkey's Kurds for the PKK by taking additional steps to recognize their Kurdish identity. It should eliminate "Turkishness" as a basis for citizenship in the constitution and abolish Article 8 of the anti-terror act and Article 301 of the penal code that are used to limit freedom of expression.
- Investments in job creation and social services in Turkey's southeast would also help address the root causes of popular dissatisfaction.
- The United States should appoint a Special Envoy for Northern Iraqi and Regional Issues to integrate the inter-agency process and navigate the USG architecture for Iraq and Turkey. The recent designation of Vice President Joe Biden as Special Coordinator for Iraqi Issues is a welcome development.

"Confidence Building between Turks and Iraqi Kurds," is available online at: <http://www.acus.org/publication/confidence-building-between-turks-and-iraqi-kurds>.

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